

Earths GMagus 821

Chapter 821 - Warlock

Boommm!! Booom!!

The sounds of crash after crash could be heard throughout the building, as a result of a huge metallic snake crushing its body, when it tried to chase after a blinking figure.

The whole prison facility had turned to chaos. Everyone was in a state of panic, as they witnessed the enormous metallic snake slithering around dangerously. Some people in the prison were screaming for help, while some were actually screaming wildly excited, knowing the warden was engaged in a fight.

"Kill that fucking snake! Kill it! Kill!"

The situation was getting worse, realizing the fact the saint guards were mostly unconscious, it became clear everything was in complete disarray. Moreover, the dozen lower realm serpent guards were not able to keep such chaos under control.

From a distance, Emery realized he was making such a mess of this place. However, now that the warden had given all of his best, it would be rude not to return the favor, wouldn't it?

Those were thoughts running through Emery's brain, while dodging the huge serpent attack.

Despite the fact Emery was able to take full control of his fey transformation, he may not have realized he was becoming more aggressive. caring less about things around him while he was in such form.

Because of the transformation, he was flooded with the desire to fight. He was experiencing this peculiar sensation of being excited to fight the humongous magus-level creature in front of him.

Swwisshhhh!

[Blink]

Although the warden was only a crescent stage magus, Emery expected with his transformation, he would have at the very least upgraded to half-moon magus battle power, which was equal to approximately 300 battle power or possibly even close to 400 battle power after his change.

After all, during this battle, it appeared his 300-plus agility was not enough to dodge all of the huge creature's attacks, despite his best efforts. His situation became more dire, forcing him to rely on his space magic [Blink].

The great thing about this [Twilight Transformation] was that it allowed him to have the best of two worlds: both physical and magical. As a result, he could dodge faster, while able to cast his [blink] spell repetitively.

However, he was aware that although this transformation had great advantages, it also had a negative side effect, as it drained so much of his spirit pool. He reckoned he would only be able to keep going for 10 minutes at most. Hence, he needed to end this fight as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, dealing with the magus was not a simple task to say the least. As a matter of fact, the magus metal scales were so strong his tier 4 sword was only able to create scratches and light wounds

on it. Emery realized there was no use to keep fighting this way and decided to use his strongest attack on the creature.

He gathered all the spirit forces he had and channeled them into the sword, unleashing the [Shadow Edge] sword art skill that dashed into the creature.

Spllaattt!!

The powerful sword slash was able to create a large cut into the creature's metallic body, but it still wasn't enough to stop it.

After dodging with [Blink] Emery cast another of his [Shadow Edge] only to find his tier 4 sword had finally cracked. He, after all, had been using the sword for the skill a dozen times already, it was unfortunate for it to break during such a fight.

Hence, he made the decision to devise a new strategy. This time, he was using his innate weapon.

[Blade Claw]

In an instant, six blades came out of his knuckles and this time he blinked towards the back of the snake. The moment after, Emery unleashed the full strength of a punch with the blade claw.

Spllaattt!! Spllaattt!!

The fact it was attached to his knuckle allowed Emery to pierce the blade with his maximum strength. It was at this point he took advantage of his opportunity and successfully pierced the metal skin with all six arm-length blades that he wielded.

Ssssssss!!

The huge snake screamed in pain while Emery smiled excitedly. The snake's body started to swirl, signaling it was the perfect time for him to dodge. However, his hand was still stuck inside too deep and was unable to break free.

"Dammit!"

The snakehead swiveled around, ready to bite his body into two. Realizing he was in danger, Emery quickly put all of his strength to his feet and tried to kick as strong as he could. Luckily, he was able to pull out at the last second.

[Blink]

It was a close one, but at least he knew such an attack was definitely effective.

Since it was the most effective attack for the moment, he attempted to do the same act twice and was successful in severely wounding the snake. Nevertheless, this kind of attack was unable to really stop it.

Even though he did try to aim for the eyes or a more sensitive part of the snake, when he got close to the snake's head, it would spew out powerful flaming lava, which was hot enough to burn his jade skin down to his bones.

Now, he was only a few minutes away from having his spirit pool emptied out completely, while he had not found the most effective way to finish the snake off.

It was in such a situation his two cores suddenly reacted to the strange energy that floated between them, the one that emerged during his upgrade.

However, it was not the time to experiment with things. Emery had to come up with a new strategy to at least give one critical attack to the metallic snake. As a result, he used [Jade Root] to stop the huge snake and gave himself the second he needed to [Blink] to the top of the snake's head.

"This is it!" He exclaimed.

At the precise moment, Emery pierced his claws into its head and the creature hissed in pain. Since he was hitting it on its critical spot, it was definitely hurt.

However, the moment after he unleashed the attack, his spirit pool was also emptied and his transformation was about to end any second.

Strangely, the mist of energy that had been gathering outside of his two cores kicked in and with it, suddenly another message came to his mind.

[Fey Warlock innate skill activated]

[Spirit Devour]

To his surprise, Emery could feel the energy rushing into his body flooding from the snake. It was strange he could feel it flowing through his claws.

The metal flaming snake was writhing in pain like never before. In order to hold himself to not fall, he held on to the claws inside the snake's head; because of this, more energy was flooding into him, building up just outside of his two cores.

Within less than a minute, the snake had collapsed in pain. Realizing the warden was unable to fight anymore, Emery pulled off his claw. Even though the huge snake had not returned to his human yet, Emery knew it was panting in pain.

A moment later, Emery could feel a dozen magus level individuals charging into the facility. They must be the reinforcement who came to check the prison condition. When they saw the huge snake in such condition, all the magus turned to rage. Another fight was about to start if it wasn't for another figure that came with them.

It was Vizla, he came in confusion and as he saw the chaos happening in this place, he immediately asked, "Emery, what did you do?"

Chapter 822 - Consequences

After the incident in the prison facility, with the chaos that had happened and the warden being heavily injured on the verge of dying, Vizla had no other choice than to take Emery back to the detention facility, the one that he had been in before.

On the other hand, as Vizla escorted him in silence, Emery understood that things had gone a bit out of control, and couldn't help to wonder if things would have gone differently.

If only he just surrendered right away, then he would not have hurt anyone.

If only he arrived sooner, then maybe he could save the girl who was dragged into all this.

If only he didn't ask the girl in the first place, then these things might not happen at all.

'If only...' Emery's mind was filled with those thoughts swirling inside, as regret welled up within him.

Alas, everything had happened and he could not change it even though he wanted to so desperately. Someone was hurt, while someone else died.

Thanks to the mess he had made, there was a chance that the deal he was about to strike with the Ouroboros fell through and his relationship with Silva might be affected because of this.

There was also a slight chance that Ouroboros would punish him as they did to Gennette. Either way, Emery was ready to accept the consequences of his actions.

Those were all the thoughts that ran through Emery's mind, as he continued to be escorted into the detention facility.

The young master of Ouroboros, Vizla, was considerate enough to accompany him, to make sure that no other things went wrong.

After they arrived at the fortress-like building, Emery was quickly taken to a different kind of detention room. This one was much smaller in size; a personal holding.

There were several other rooms in the corridor where Emery was being held, separated by a magical wall panel and glass front.

Emery entered the room, and after all the guards left to return to their posts, Vizla still stayed around. The young master was standing in front of the glass door with an annoyed face and acting as if he wanted to say something. However, the normally talkative man seemed to be at a loss for words.

Seeing Vizla's face and realizing what it meant, Emery said "Just tell me... How bad is it?"

When he heard that, Vizla suddenly exploded with emotion.

"You ask how bad is it?! It's pretty bad, I tell you! A dozen guards were wounded during the chaos and the main problem is the warden"

The young man heaved a deep sigh to calm his rising emotion.

"What exactly did you do to him?! The warden's spirit soul was found damaged, to the point of a regression in his cultivation" Vizla brought his face near to the glass and looked straight at Emery. "Tell me. What the hell actually happened?"

The news of the warden's condition took Emery by surprise. Even he himself did not expect to cause such harm. Apparently, his new skill was very deadly.

Either way, Emery really didn't know much about the skill. Hence he just decided to say nothing lest it caused a misunderstanding.

Vizla then continued speaking. "I heard that you were there because of one of the servants assigned to your residence. Is this true? One of the guards at your residence came and told me that you were looking for me, but when I came to find you, you were already gone. Why the hell then did you end up breaking a prison!?"

Emery took a deep sigh and told him about what happened that led to the incident and also took this chance to ask why would this led to Gennette's cruel punishment.

However, the tone and attitude that Vizla took as he spoke clearly showed that he was not only ignorant of it, he also didn't really care.

"It was just a lowly human. I can find hundreds of replacements just like her easily. Why are you making trouble because of her?" Confusion could be heard in his words as the young man spoke again, clearly showing that he was truly unable to comprehend why Emery was willing to go so far for a human.

Vizla then explained how the law in Ouroboros was very strict, that murder between bloodlines could easily sentence the offender a capital punishment.

Hearing this, Emery was actually reminded of the death of many humans in that facility. However, he knew better than to let out these thoughts out loud and therefore kept them to himself.

In the meantime, Vizla continues explaining

"My mother, the queen, has always tried to rule justly. So let's hope that the warden will be okay, otherwise, it's not just the contract that will be pulled. There might even be a trial for you for this."

This was certainly surprising news for Emery. He did not expect that the matter would be this grave.

Before leaving, Vizla spoke one last time.

"You should know that my sister is not allowed to see you until you decide to accept or not accept the contract. Looking at your current situation, my suggestion would be to just sign the contract already. Afterward, you can just plead guilty and receive a lighter sentence. It would also be seen as favorable by the people of the Ouroboros. If you decide not to, however, you will only make things difficult for you and us all."

Vizla then leaves the room leaving echoes of footsteps slowly getting smaller before finally disappearing completely.

Emery was actually left with more questions which trouble him deeply. After all, even though he had been traveling to quite a few worlds, this was the first time that he really interacted deeply with their culture.

At first glance, Ouroboros might have a lot in common with its home planet, but there were actually some major differences.

As he was thinking about what he should do next, suddenly a voice rang out from the room next to him. It was a familiar female voice that started with a little chuckle of amusement.

"Finally, you are here. Looks like I'm the only one rotting in this cell for months while you're free out there and having fun without me."

A figure came to Emery's mind when he heard the very familiar tone of sarcasm.

The owner of that voice was none other than the possessor of the Bat Bloodline and his supposedly martial aunt, Annara.

Chapter 823 - Contemplate

The voice sounded a bit unclear, as it had to pass through the magic panel that separated their detention room, but Emery knew the owner of the voice must be Annara.

"Annara?" Emery asked, a little unsure even though he knew the voice was hers. "I didn't know you were still here... I mean, why are you still here?"

A scoff could be vaguely heard from the other side. "Huh! So you still have the conscience to ask me that? I thought you had forgotten about me already, Ouroboros' honorable guest!"

After another round of ridicule to let out any frustration she had been holding back, the girl on the next cell began to narrate her story, how she was previously accompanied by Michela the magus enforcer and heard about what happened from her.

Thanks to that, she knew the queen had promised to let them go after the situation with Zodiac City had been settled. The guards arrived at her cell two weeks ago, but they only came for the magus enforcer and not her.

"Those serpent bastards! I am Annara, of the Bat Bloodline Vermont Clan! They all shall pay for the humiliation I receive here! Fu**, I am a privileged class acolyte! They can't treat me like this!"

Annara continued to spit out curses furiously for a minute before she suddenly fell silent. Emery was about to ask what was wrong when he heard the sound of something being hit from the other side.

"You must help me get out of this place Emery! I can't stay here any longer! We have the mid-test in a few weeks! We have to return as soon as possible!"

Emery sighed deeply, "With my current situation, I think you have a better chance of attending the mid-test than me."

There was silence for a moment before a light chuckle could be heard.

"Haaahh... Yes... I heard it just now. You always have to make a sensation wherever you go, don't you Emery?"

Emery decided not to respond and ignore her. The girl seemed to be just making fun of everything. At least that was what he thought until she suddenly said something that intrigued him.

"You were surprised with the way they treat humans, weren't you? Believed me, all higher realm half blood worlds are the same"

At this moment he remembered Annara also hailed from a world ruled by half-bloods like Silva.

The girl then explained how almost all the worlds ruled by the half-bloods started with the same story of the half-bloods being the minority and discriminated against. Then, eventually, they became the ruler of that world.

"It's human nature to be jealous of something they don't have, you know that right? In our case, they can't accept that we, the half-bloods, are better than them, hence a fight for world domination is inevitable"

Emery remembered how Silva told him about the history of war the Ouroboros had gone through between humans and the half-blood. He could somehow understand why Vizla and all the other serpents' bloodline treated humans this way. In a way, he was also reminded of how the Briton hated the fey people so much; it was just the other way around.

Annara then asked about the contract mentioned by Vizla and, as Emery was also curious about what other people thought of the contract he received, Emery decided to tell her.

After explaining the essence of the contract, Emery did not immediately receive a response, but then she said.

"Did they really give you that kind of contract? That's a very good offer, Emery." The girl's voice sounded genuinely surprised.

"You think so? So, should I accept the contract?"

This time, an immediate response came from the other side.

"No... no, don't accept it" Annara said in an unsure tone.

"No?" Emery was puzzled. "Why? If it's really good in your opinion, then I should accept it right?"

"Well, in my case it's because I believe my master, Grand Magus Zenonia, would definitely not be happy"

Emery's mind went into a daze when he heard the girl's words. For a moment, he couldn't understand what she was saying.

"What do you mean your master won't be happy?"

Annara realized she had slipped out something she shouldn't have said.

"Argh, I'm not supposed to say that. Just forget I ever said that."

Emery was quickly reminded about another threat that was waiting for him. Grand Magus Zenonia, was a figure in Magus Academy that was as powerful as the Serpent Queen. Someone he won't dare to make trouble with for probably the next hundreds of years. One more reason why he needs a powerful faction to back him up/

As he pondered, Emery heard Annara calling out to him again.

"Emery... Actually, after thinking carefully... I think you should accept the contract."

"Oh? Why?" The girl's sudden change of mind naturally made him curious.

"Because I believe there is a higher chance for both you and me to survive and leave this planet if you accept the contract."

Emery was amused by her antics once again. The red-haired girl was such an opportunist, she was even willing to betray her master's will for the sake of survival.

Out of pure curiosity, Emery asked, "Then what about your master's will?"

The girl didn't even spend a second before answering, "Haha, that's easy... I'm sure my master can help you break the [soul contract] without killing you. Maybe just some side effects, but what's important is that you and I, both of us will end up surviving."

"..."

"This is the best plan, trust me!"

"..."

Emery heaved a deep sigh and decided to figuratively close his ears from the girl's nonsense.

Everyone seemed to have their own agenda, therefore Emery should really start to think about his own.

There was only so much time left before the 24 hour deadline arrived.

Hence, he quickly took the lotus position and closed his eyes to gather and concentrate his thoughts. He tried to think carefully about the contract - what joining the Ouroboros would mean and entail to him, to his friends, and to Earth.

Emery's contemplation went on for several hours before his facial expression relaxed. He finally had a better grasp of what he was about to do.

A figure came walking into the corridor where Emery's cell was located.

Emery was expecting Vizla, however, the one who came was a female with long white hair.

The girl however appeared to be distraught, as she looked at him, she said "I came to see if you have made up your decision?"

Chapter 824 - Punishment

In the early hours of the morning, at the queen's residence, the Serpent Queen awoke from her sleep with a special report regarding a certain incident that happened in the prison facility.

One of the magus who was present at the scene when the incident occurred was the one who came and informed the report. A frown appeared on the queen's face after the magus finished recounting the story.

She then dismissed the magus while also calling for Duke Syre to come to her residence. It didn't take long for the man to appear, but just as she was about to discuss the matter, Vizla suddenly burst through the door and came barging in.

Apparently, Vizla had come to plead mercy on Emery's behalf, saying how sorry Emery felt about the mess he had created and how he was willing to join the faction. Hence the grounds and justification for asking a lesser sentence.

The duke, however, voiced his disagreement almost immediately.

"The victim is Elder Alabaster's snake son." Duke Syre turned to the queen. "My Queen, this cannot go unpunished."

When he heard that, Vizla quickly opened his mouth and interjected.

"What?! That old geezer had a hundred sons! With how stupid they all are, I bet the old man gets similar news every day!"

Vizla was about to say more, but when he noticed that his mother threw a piercing glare in his direction, he quickly stopped and closed his mouth. The duke, on the other hand, ignored Vizla's rebuke and spoke calmly.

"My Queen, I suggest that we go and prepare for the trial. That is what we have to do, this is our law"

Vizla glared at the duke, and realizing that he was being ignored, he waited for the queen to speak.

However, the first sentence the queen spoke caught them both off guard as it was something that they didn't expect at all.

"Let's get this clear first, Elder Alabaster's son - a magus - was beaten to the brink of death by a rank 8 acolyte?"

The queen chuckled "This is hilarious, hahaha, I like this kid more and more, hahaha"

The duke was dumbfounded seeing her reaction. On the other hand, Vizla was seen smiling. He was clearly happy by his mother's reaction. Alas, the words the queen spoke next immediately brought down the smile that was on his face.

"Even so, ...he still needs to receive a punishment." Noticing the look Vizla gave her, the queen said, "Son, you know the law, Even you can't escape it if you break one of them."

This of course made Vizla annoyed.

Meanwhile, the queen turned to Duke Syre and said, "Still, I don't think a trial will be necessary. Putting a privileged class acolyte on trial would bring too much problem and complications that we would rather not have. So, with what he has done, what kind of punishment should he receive, Syre?"

A look of contemplation appeared on Duke Syre's face for a brief moment before he opened his mouth to respond.

"The injuries that the victim suffered were severe, to the point that the spirit soul was damaged. However, no lives were lost from this incident. Under normal circumstances in a similar case, the preparator could be given ten to twenty years in prison, or one year if he is willing to accept a similar injury."

Hearing those outrageous punishments, Vizla became even more irritated. In the meantime, the queen was silent and said nothing, probably pondering her decision.

Before she made her decision, Vizla forced himself to speak. He wanted to persuade his mother as he feared that Emery would receive the harshest punishment.

"Mother, you know how talented he is. No matter which one it was, the punishment would greatly affect his future progress and perhaps even destroy him completely! It's simply absurd!"

Everyone in the room knew that such punishment was usually applied to magus where 10-20 years of imprisonment was nothing. However, for Emery who was not even 20 years old yet and a privileged student of the Magus Academy at that, even a one year prison sentence was a bit too heavy.

The queen heaved a deep sigh filled with tiredness. She then looked at her son and said, "I also don't like this situation as much as you do. But, everyone must abide by the law, even someone with great talent."

"But mother.. This is not any other talent... this is Silva's..."

Hearing that, the queen was stunned for a few seconds before speaking again.

"Perhaps.. we can maybe lower the sentence, or... he can even carry out the punishment after his academy years... But, has he really decided to join?"

"Of course mother.."

"Has he signed the contract?"

"Erm, about that... Actually..."

The queen knew her son's antics better than anyone. Therefore, she immediately dismissed him and told him to only come again when Emery had decided to join. Otherwise, the boy was not worth their time.

It was at this moment that Vizla said something that managed to make the queen raise her eyebrows.

"Mother, can we at least let Silva talk to him?"

A dubious expression appeared on the queen's face because she really wasn't sure about Vizla's suggestion. She wonders if she let her go, Silva would play a trick on her again.

Vizla noticed his mother's hesitation. "Please, mother if you could just talk to her and let her explain, I am sure she has a way to convinced him"

Those events then led to where in the last hour before the deadline, Silva came to Emery's cell. She came alone and her expression said that she seemed to have a lot of concern and worry.

"I came to ask if you've made up your mind."

Emery calmly stood up, and then stared at the girl's eyes while saying, "I have."

Silva could feel her heart skip a beat when she heard his words and saw how he looked at her. This quickly tells what decision he had made.

She quickly interrupt and said

"Before you say anything, I must first tell you what the queen's decision is on the incident you have committed."

She told him that the queen decided that he must serve a five-year prison sentence after he finished his academic term at the Magus Academy, or receive a similar injury as the victim he injured.

"However, the queen said that as long as you join the faction, you dont need to do these things."

Silva spoke those words with such a desperate tone, as all the words she just spoke, she saw that Emery's expression did not change in the slightest. This could only mean that he had made up his mind and nothing could change it.

After she finished delivering the message the queen had given her, Silva's heart was beating fast because it was now Emery's turn to say his decision. And, as she expected, his answer was.

"No... Silva, I can't accept the contract."

Chapter 825 - Decision

Emery had experienced and saw first-hand how much humans hated the Fey. His family estate was completely burned to the ground and his father mercilessly killed, all because of loving a Fey, his mother.

Even so, he was reminded of a certain princess who, despite also harboring deep hatred toward the Fey, still accepted, lived with them, and in times brought peace between humans and the fey.

Although it couldn't be compared with what was happening in the Ouroboros, Emery still wanted to believe. He needed to believe a peaceful coexistence between the half-blood and humans was possible in the future.

During the hours he contemplated his decision, Emery kept coming back to put his home, Earth, above anything else. No matter how much he tried to look at it from another perspective, the support, the opportunity, he just could not shake the feeling that joining the Ouroboros would endanger his home, his friends and his responsibility to them.

He did need a faction indeed, but he needed one who could understand his people and can be accepted by them.

Thus, the reasons for his final decision.

"I'm sorry, Silva, but I can't accept the offer. At least not for now."

The white-haired girl hung her head low and let out a deep sigh. She had already somewhat predicted his answer when she heard about the incident at the prison. After all, she knew what Emery's main concerns really were. How the Ouroboros treated the humans they imprisoned was the last thing she wish him to see.

For Emery to experience such a thing at this crucial moment was like fate decided to take action and break them apart.

Still, even though she understood his reasons, it didn't mean Silva would be able to accept it. In fact, she found it really hard to accept. She had a myriad of words she wanted to say to him to make him reconsider his decision, but alas. If only she had more time.

However, right now she only wished to find a way for him to escape danger.

"Emery, please reconsider. If you choose this, they will really be forced to punish you."

Emery looked at her eyes. In contrast to the girl's somewhat unstable and tumultuous emotion, Emery's gaze and voice were filled with calmness and conviction.

"Silva, it was my mistake. I will accept the consequences."

Upon seeing his stubbornness and unwillingness to listen, Silva reflexively took a sharp breath and clenched her trembling fists. At that moment, the turbulent emotions she had been suppressing were about to explode. However, before she could say a word, a person next door beat her to it.

"I don't want to bother the quarrel between you two lovebirds, but I can't stand listening to that moron! Emery, I thought we agreed you would accept their offer!?" The voice angrily questioned.

The place was immediately filled with silence.

Hearing Annara's words, Silva's emotions slowly settled down. She took another deep breath, walked toward the next door, and accessed the symbol on the door.

Right after, no sound could be heard from the other side anymore. It was obvious she had just enhanced the seal, making Annara unable to join the conversation.

When Silva returned, she could not help but let out a sigh of relief. Inwardly, she couldn't help but be grateful, as the red-haired girl's unexpected intervention had managed to break the tension and now she had calmed down a little.

Hence, she once again tried to convince him, this time with more composure.

"Emery... if this is about that servant girl... I'm telling you, you don't have to feel sorry for her."

The mention of Gennette certainly piqued his interest, as Vizla or anyone else never cared to explain what happened.

"...What do you mean? Tell me."

"I have checked and found that the girl and her brother were part of the human resistance. These groups have been involved in several terror acts directed at the serpent clan... which is why they received their due punishment."

Emery fell silent. No matter how he thought about it, he could not picture Gennette as a rebel. Even so, he knew that Silva would not lie to him about such a matter.

Silva added, "The girl might not be directly involved, but the fact she was willing to go through accepting your request was enough to make her complicit with the human resistance."

Silva's voice shook as she continued.

"I hope this will shed some light that we are reasonable people. We have been in peace and war with humans enough times to know how to rule them, and that's through fear... Emery, I beg of you, please understand... we are not so different your world and I, we've just only experienced it longer than you have..."

Silva's words certainly managed to land deep in his mind, managing to make him reconsider his decision for a moment. Perhaps she was right, but at the end of the day, his decision was still firm, because he believed such a faction, one that was bound with their past, would not be what was best for his world.

Seeing the anxious girl in front of him, Emery knew he couldn't just give a no for an answer.

"Silva, tell me honestly, are you still sure both our worlds can still align? Other than me and a little group of my fey family, everyone in my world is human. These humans are my people, my friends. Do you think I should rule over them through fear?"

The girl seemed to be in a dilemma when she heard his words, unable to answer the question. Silva knew anything she said right now would only force her agenda on him. In the end, she had no actual knowledge about the world Emery was talking about.

As for Emery, he could not allow his planet to follow Ouroboros' way. He believed accepting the contract would do just that. He was afraid the Ouroboros would just become another Nephilim for his world. In fact, it could even be worse, as he could not do anything about it if he had signed the contract.

There was a few seconds of silence between them, as neither of them said a word.

Looking into Silva's eyes, Emery continued to speak his mind.

"Silva... I believe in a world where humans and half-bloods can live together hand-in-hand... This is what I want my world to become."

The girl was stunned. Her face was full of disbelief as her body began to tremble.

"There... there must be another way we can make this work... you... You could demand something inside the contract... just write something and I will... I will make sure..." The girl started to gasp and her eyes teary.

However, Emery just stood still, his expression clearly saying he had made a decision.

Anger and desperation filled her up, but she quickly crushed those feelings, crushing her pride to let out one more sentence.

"Emery... is there really nothing I can say or do that would change your mind? Is there really nothing at all?"

Emery's decision was final, the only thing left was his regret for hurting the girl.

"I'm sorry, Silva."

Hearing this, Silva wiped her tears and glared at him, and slowly whisper.

"Your ideals... will be the death of you."

A moment after, Silva seemed to suddenly find her strength back and the next thing she did surprised him.

The girl opened Emery's cell and without even talking to him, she quickly walked to the one next door and opened Annara's cell. She then stood in front of the two of them and said.

"You two should follow me now!, let's go!"

Chapter 826 - Come with me

Emery was confused by Silva's sudden action. On the other hand, Annara became very excited, as she immediately stood up and looked like she was immediately ready to run away.

"Follow me." Silva said. Emery eventually decided to follow her.

As she led the two of them through the corridors of the facility, he saw that none of the guards they met tried to stop them. All of them just threw a glance in their direction, saw it was the Ouroboros princess, and went back to doing whatever they were doing before.

However, as soon as they arrived outside the facility, Silva's magus bodyguard saw them and quickly stood in their way. But unexpectedly, Silva was able to quickly talk her way out of the man. The magus was not given the opportunity and time to check, as she had already entered the vehicle.

"Come in, hurry up!"

Seeing the princess was already in the vehicle and seemed to be in a hurry, the magus quickly took a step back and let Emery and Annara walk past him instead of getting himself in trouble.

Silva immediately started the engine and rode it into the sky, away from the facility. It didn't take long for them to finally reach what seemed to be their destination, a field where several spaceships could be seen parked.

When their vehicle closed in, Silva turned to look at Annara, "I'm really sorry that I kept you in prison longer, I planned for us to return to the academy together, unfortunately, things took longer than I thought"

Turning her head to the outside, she continued, "Now go find one you can use and hurry. We don't have that much time."

After nodding her head showing she understood, Annara quickly got out of the vehicle and ran towards one of the spaceships without any hesitation. Silva and Emery also quickly followed behind her.

There was another magus in charge of this place, who immediately came to approach them. However, Silva quickly dismissed his inquiry and sent the man away.

Seeing this, Emery was finally sure Silva released them without permission or anyone knowing. At first, he thought Silva would really bring them to the queen, however, instead she brought them here to escape the planet. This realization immediately caused a wave of anxiety to wash over him.

"Silva, what is going on? What are you doing?"

After the unfortunate things that happened with Gennette, Emery had become much more cautious. He was definitely worried what Silva did would make things worse than it already was and cause many problems for her.

"This is the only way, Emery. You have to leave now."

Emery just stood there, the space between the spaceship whose engines had been ignited in front of the beautiful white-haired girl.

He turned to look at Silva and opened his mouth with a firm look.

"No, I'm not going to run and give you trouble."

Silva's face darkened when she heard that. She was angered by the stupidity Emery was showing. she couldn't help but wonder if he really was that stupid or just simply didn't understand what their situation was.

"You- You moron!" Pointing her finger at him, Silva continued, "You have chosen your world and your friends! What else do you want?! Just go! GO!" Her voice turned into a scream, as she reached the last words.

Seeing her on the verge of crying, Emery let out a long helpless sigh. He knew what Silva had said was true.

He walked up to the girl and said, "Silva, I'm sorry... I promise... I will make it up to you later in the academy."

The girl's expression, however, changed after Emery said that and he realized it. This immediately worried him because he could guess what it meant.

"You... are you not returning to the academy?"

Silva was silent, before eventually shaking her head and turning her face away not wanting to face him.

Emery was about to say more when suddenly, through his Spirit Reading, he could sense several flying vehicles approaching in the distance. They would arrive in a minute or two. He realized their time had run out.

Silva seemed to have realized the situation as he looked a little more panicked. So, she quickly pushed Emery away, "Just go. I will be fine. Go."

For a moment there, Emery had a feeling - as if he would not be able to see her again for a very long time. His body suddenly became heavy. He didn't know what had come into him, but Emery suddenly decided to extend his arm to her and said.

"Silva... Come with me..."

The unexpected sentence instantly stunned the girl, her expression basically said it all, she wanted clarification.

To be clear, Emery proceeded to repeat what he said.

"Come with me... I will take care of you..." Emery gazed deeply into her eyes.

There was a glimpse of a smile from the girl. Those were the exact words she asked and had been waiting for from him. The white-haired girl took his extended hand and quickly jump and put her two arms around him, holding him tightly, as if she didn't want to let go.

She rested her cheek on his chest before she slowly whispered.

"Emery... I wish it was all true... I know that deep down you don't really mean it, but I'm still happy to hear it. I truly am." She then let go of his hand and once again pushed him away. "I can't go with you. Take care of yourself, Emery. Goodbye."

Her hands were trembling, but Silva quickly hid them behind her body as she walked away from him. "Go now, or everything would have been for nothing."

At her words, Emery turned his head around and saw that the spaceship was actually starting to take off. It was clear Annara wasn't planning to wait for him.

Emery glanced at the white-haired girl and, with a heavy heart, finally turned around.

With [Blink], his figure disappeared from where he was and reappeared near the entrance of the spaceship. Before the spaceship completely closed its door, Emery turned to look at her one last time and saw the girl keep her eyes at him until the group of people finally surrounded her.

The spaceship quickly shot up into the sky, leaving streaks of bright colors on the azure expanse and a white-haired girl standing alone on the field.

Emery's heart was still beating fast, as he finally entered and sat down next to the red-haired girl, whose attention was focused on the control panel.

"I really thought you wouldn't come," Annara said calmly. "For a second there, I was convinced you were going to stay with her."

When he heard her words, Emery let out a deep sigh. He couldn't refute her - as for a second there he had also thought the same.

As soon as they left the planet's atmosphere and entered outer space, Annara controlled the spaceship to activate warp speed to escape from any possible chase by the Ouroboros.

It was at this moment Emery suddenly felt there was something in his pocket. He quickly took it out and saw that it was a storage ring. Silva must have sneaked it in when she hugged him earlier.

Emery looked into the ring and found three items. One was a dark-colored sword he was familiar with. It was the tier 5 sword they saw in Alfa Station: the [Savage Blade]. The second item was a plant. A yellow flower given by the plant creature [Flower of Eternity].

However, the third one was a small note folded into a square shape. I was just a one-sentence word.

[A sword to wish you reach number one and a flower to wish for your happiness, until we meet again]

[Ouroboros]

Hours after Emery and Annara's spaceship had gone into hyperspace, a white-haired girl was walking towards the renowned Ouroboros gene facility accompanied by the Serpent Queen herself.

Bob the Frog could be seen a bit anxious by the unannounced visit. However, Silva smiled to calm her uncle's worried heart before saying in a nonchalant tone, "Uncle Bob, my mother is here because she wants to see the project I asked you to do."

"Ah, y-yes... Yes, of kourse." Bob answered with some stutter. "This way, please."

Deep within the gene facility, there was one room that seemed to be specially separated from the rest. Inside, there was a figure of a young man lying in a tube, his appearance was very similar to Emery, next to it were several tanks of blood and dozens of vials filled with golden and silver-colored liquids.

The Serpent Queen entered the room, looked around, checked some data, nodded her head in satisfaction, and said "Are you sure about this daughter?"

Silva just give a nod, turned to the half-blood frog uncle of hers, and said.

"You have all the ingredients you need. Now, I need you to make me an additional clone."

Chapter 827 - Path

The spaceship that Emery and Annara rode in has been flying through hyperspace at warp speed for the past three days.

The ship they were in wasn't big and even could be considered to be quite small. Therefore, these past three days, the two of them had basically been hanging around with each other all the time. They trained together, had meals together, and even rested near each other.

Thanks to the many things that had happened to and between them in the past 4 months, Emery and Annara had gotten used to each other and learned to get along. Unfortunately, Emery found another habit of the girl he found hard to deal with.

Being a cultivator who specialized in sound, Annara had a strange taste of it. When asked about it, the red-haired girl said that it was music. This naturally puzzled Emery, as the only thing he could hear was a weird cacophony of loud noises that sounded like things crashing into each other.

"In my world, we called this Art!" was what the girl said as the so-called music resounded in the background.

Dum dum prak dum dum chink!!

Thanks to her antics, the whole trip taught Emery a new level of patience. He could only take it as a way to further train his concentration in the midst of chaos, as he couldn't debate much with the girl.

Not only would it only create more drama - something that definitely wasn't needed between them, but also a fact that she was the pilot of the spaceship. This automatically made her the boss.

On the other hand, the red-haired girl's antics also somehow helped him stop worrying about a certain heiress of a clan. Since there was nothing he could do, Emery can only hope that she wouldn't get into too much trouble for helping them escape.

The past three days Emery had also taken two more doses of the [Twilight Serum]. As a result, he managed to gain a two percent increase in his Fey gene essence percentage.

This also left him with only 11 [Twilight Fey booster], and with simple math, Emery knew that he wouldn't hit the 50% mark with them. This inevitable situation made him think about Ouroboros again.

Given that they still had the recipe for [Twilight Fey Booster] and his clone body, Emery firmly believed that his relationship with them was still not over and that their paths would cross again in the future.

After letting out a sigh, Emery threw the thought of her to the back of his mind and set his thoughts straight. He then returned to his cultivation training, as he had priorities that he wanted to achieve.

In the corner of the spaceship, Emery was currently sitting in the lotus position and focused his concentration on his cultivation.

He still hoped to break through to rank 9 acolyte before they arrived at the academy, but the past three days he still hadn't been able to make that breakthrough he so desperately wanted.

On the other hand, Emery found it strange that the mist-like energy floating and circulating right outside his two cores were still there. It was the one that made him able to use his new skill [Spirit Devour].

As he had absolutely no clue what it was and no idea of what he should do about it, Emery decided to let it be. Naturally, he also decided that he would ask about this to Magus Xion or maybe to the White Fang when he returned to the academy.

Either way, Emery sincerely hoped he could return as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Annara said that the return trip would take at least 10 days, even at their continuous warp speed.

The long journey time could actually be cut down by going in a straight line, but since Ouroboros Planet was located near the border of the battlefield between humans and elves, it would be extremely dangerous for them to travel directly to the nearest alliance outpost.

Of course there was another quicker method of returning to the academy, which was to reach one of the Serpent Bloodline's planets in the vicinity that still had functional portals. However, not only was there a huge chance that they would be recognized and subsequently captured, this option was essentially a gamble given the Serpent Bloodline's stance towards the current situation.

Hence, they agreed to just travel in a somewhat roundabout way in order to be safe.

"At least we should still have arrived with proper time to prepare for the mid-test." The tone of Annara's words clearly showed how nonchalant she was with their situation.

When the two of them were busy with their own activity, suddenly a deafening sound resounded from the control panel. Something had triggered the spaceship's alarm and this quickly awakened Emery from his focused cultivation.

"What's wrong? What happened?" Emery asked as he approached the red-haired girl who was fiddling with the control panel.

Without turning her head, Annara answered his question. "Radar detected many objects in our direct path. We have to get off the warp speed."

This unexpected situation caught both of them off guard and made them both cautious and anxious. After all, every time they got off the warp speed, the risk of danger would increase because the spaceship could be detected by unwanted parties.

The spaceship shook violently for a moment as it exited hyperspace. Immediately after, Emery and Annara's eyes turned to the window. They wanted to see what was the thing that forced them to stop their warp speed, and they were quickly dumbstruck by the scene that unfolded in front of them.

Large piles of wreckage that scattered and floating aimlessly in the dark space.

It didn't take the two of them long to realize that what they were seeing might be the remains of a battle.

Seeing this, Annara realized something and her face changed. She quickly scanned the area and looked for an alternative route.

"Come on... come on... come on..." The red-haired girl muttered as she operated the control panel at high speed.

"Yes! done!"

[An alternate path has been mapped out. The ship is going back to hyperspace in 5, 4, 3-]

Just as they were about to enter warp speed, the ship suddenly shook and something appeared on the control panel.

[Unable to activate warp speed, a tractor beam is in progress]

Seeing this notification, Annara's face instantly turned pale and she immediately threw her way towards the window. Emery who had been observing her also quickly followed suit, and the two of them saw a ship the size of an elven cruise ship enter their view.

Realizing what kind of ship it was, the pale expression on Annara's face lessened.

"That's the alliance warship. We are saved!"

Chapter 828 - Battleship

The spaceship that Emery and Annara was riding shook violently, causing the latter to hastily reach for the control panel only to find that it had become unresponsive and appeared to have lost all its functions.

Emery couldn't help but become a bit anxious as he watched the huge ship gradually approach theirs. Even though Annara told him that it was the human alliance's ship, they were after all in desolate outer space where a mere small mistake could literally decide between life and death.

"Relax, will you?" said Annara when she noticed how nervous Emery was. "They are definitely friendly, so don't worry too much. Being a student in the privileged class and what we have done in Kurltulmak planet, I'm sure we will receive a hero-like welcome."

Those words were spoken by Annara with such confidence, a moment later a voice came out from the control panel.

"This vessel was reported to be stolen. Identify yourself immediately or we will open fire."

The confident expression on the red-haired girl immediately crumbled down like sand.

"Wait! Wait! Don't shoot! We are two of Magus Academy's acolytes! Please don't shoot us!"

"..."

After Annara frantically said those words, there was only silence coming from the other side for some time.

Suddenly a beam of light shone from the battleship. Both Emery and Annara watched as the beam slowly but surely pulled their spaceship to the back of the huge ship.

As they got closer, Emery could gradually see the entirety of a tremendous-looking ship. It seemed to be made completely out of metal, and upon closer scrutiny, it was probably only half the size of the elven cruise ship they had seen before.

However, this particular battleship looked very threatening compared to the elven cruise ship, with prominent turrets placed in various places and numbering at least a few dozen.

The large hatch at the rear of the battleship opened as Emery and Annara's spacecraft approached, and they were ordered to dock into the hangar where they could see a group of people in uniform waiting near their spaceship's landing site.

Through his Spirit Reading that had been stretched to the limit of its range, Emery could roughly guess that there were at more than three, almost four thousand people in this battleship. About two hundred of them were present around the hangar, most of which consisted of rank 9 and saint-level individuals with half a dozen magus-level people.

When the two of them walked out of the spaceship, Emery finally realized that these people weren't actually in uniform. To be precise, they all indeed wore uniforms, but there were 4 different ones.

The only thing they have in common in their appearance were the black shoulder pads with special markings embroidered on them.

Before they stood face to face with the group of people who had been waiting for them, Annara leaned closer to Emery and whispered into his ear. "These people are all battleborn. They are part of the elite human fighters!"

Even though Emery didn't know what battleborn meant exactly, he could roughly guess from their appearances and the term that these people standing in front of him were all probably veterans of the war.

On the other hand, Annara still wasn't done yet with her words.

"They probably just finished a battle with all those wreckage still around." She nudged Emery and said, "You just need to stay silent and let me do all the talking, alright? Don't mess up this simple task."

One of the magus figures accompanied by 10 saint-level people approached with a device in his hand. He quickly scanned the faces of the two of them and the symbols on their palms.

Even though the magus seemed to have received their personal data, he still asked them questions.

"Name?"

"Annara Vermont," Annara swiftly replied, to which Emery followed right after. "Emery Ambrose."

The magus nodded his head when he heard their answers, but he still continued to ask more questions. It was evident that the man was being really cautious.

"Next question, explain why you are here with the reported stolen ship."

Hearing this question, Annara immediately explained about them being captured against their will by a Snake Bloodline clan, and that they had simply fled to return to the Magus Academy.

Once again, the man just nodded his head. He then gave a few more questions which were basically asked to confirm their position the last few days.

While they were being questioned, Emery took the opportunity to carefully observe all the people around them.

He couldn't help but feel some sense of familiarity with a certain kind of the uniform. It also didn't help that there was a woman that he found really familiar among the magus group.

Emery could have sworn he had seen her in the past. The female magus also seemed to recognize him as he saw her smiling in his direction.

While Emery was busy thinking about who she was, the female magus approached the magus who was questioning them. She told the man to stop the questioning while her eyes were still focused on Emery.

"I know who they are." The female magus said to the man. Then, she said to her subordinates. "Call the commander here."

The female magus did all of this while still smiling at Emery, making him even more confused about her identity.

Meanwhile, Annara was panicked. She quickly turned to Emery "You..! how many people do you mess with anyway? There's the Nephilim, then the Ouroboros, and now these battleborn?!"

Emery couldn't really answer her question because he himself was still trying to put a name on the female magus' face when suddenly a loud sound could be heard from on one of the hangar door and it was approaching fast.

The figure was a peak stage magus, with such an overwhelming aura.

As soon as the middle age figure saw Emery and Annara, he shouted loudly.

"You! Why are you here?!!"

Annara's body involuntarily shook under the deafening voice. She quickly bowed and said, "Commander, whatever issue you are having with this colleague of mine. Please... I... I'm sure we can resolve it peacefully."

The figure whose steps were suddenly stopped by Annara quickly grabbed her shoulder and shout, "Move away." Under the red-haired girl's confused gaze, the figure smiled broadly at Emery and so did he.

The figure quickly walked up to Emery and put his arm around Emery shoulder before shouting to everyone around.

"Men! Let me introduce you all, this person here is my junior brother from home!"

The cheering figure was none other than Lord Izta, the Gilgamesh.

Chapter 829 - Reunion

Even though Emery only knew the man for a few weeks during his second year in the Magus Academy, the man had quickly cemented himself in his life and became a very important figure for him and his friends.

"Emery! What an unexpected surprise!"

The man was so happy that the next thing he did after breaking the hug was to start talking to his invisible friend.

"Look who's here, Ekindu! It's our boy, Emery!"

Seeing how excited and friendly their commander was, it confirmed that Emery was not a threat, therefore all the people standing in the hangar quickly dispersed, leaving only those who had actual business in this place.

One other figure remained standing still. It was the female magus, who Emery immediately recalled where he had met her after seeing Lord Izta. She's one of Lord Izta's wives, the one called Rosia.

After bantering with the always invisible Enkidu, Lord Izta turned his attention to Emery again and scanned him from top to bottom. A cheeky smile appeared on his face after he did the inspection.

"You have definitely improved a lot since the last time I saw you. That aside, now tell me why are you here? Shouldn't you be at the academy at this time?"

Emery quickly introduced Annara, who was still shocked by what she had just seen. She couldn't believe there was such a coincidence in the world. Fortunately, her thoughts quickly returned to her and the two then began to explain their situation.

"So will you let us go, Senior? We really need to get back to the academy as soon as possible," the red-haired girl said, anxiety showing on her face.

"Let you go? No, absolutely not! I absolutely cannot allow that!" Annara's facial expression turned pale, when she heard Lord Izta's words, but it quickly changed when she heard his next words. "I haven't seen my junior in such a long time! How could I let him off so quickly?!"

After saying that, Lord Izta patted Emery's shoulders and told the two of them to follow him.

As the two were led through the battleship by its commander himself, Emery saw that the interior of the battleship was actually not as he expected. There were so many surprises that for a moment he even doubted he was inside a ship.

Inside the battleship looked like a massive military base, with heavily armed fighters moving around the various parts of the battleship.

Emery and Annara walked past the training hall, armory, living quarters and, finally, Lord Izta brought them to a place, where the security should be of the highest level: the command center.

When the group of three entered the command center, Emery's gaze was immediately drawn to the two figures emitting an aura as strong as Lord Izta and one grand magus among the others present.

Lord Izta introduced the two, who were as strong as him, as someone of the same rank as him, a commander. A middle-aged man dressed in a classic military suit whose body exuded authority was introduced as the captain of the battleship. Meanwhile, the grand magus was introduced as the guardian, who was deployed by the alliance to safeguard the battleship.

"My friend, let me introduce two young friends I have here. They are privileged acolytes of the Magus Academy." Patting Emery's shoulder again, Lord Izta smiled broadly. "This particular one is my junior from my homeland, while this one beside him is... err..."

Annara quickly continued Lord Izta's words by saying, "I am his girlfriend, Senior. I am Annara Vermont"

Lord Izta became visibly surprised when he heard that. He immediately let out a cheeky smile. "Hoho! Junior, why didn't you say so earlier?" Turning to Emery, the man continued, "I really thought you were loyal to that Egyptian beauty... Well, I guess you are trying to follow my path... I approve!"

Emery was caught off guard by Annara's unexpected words. But he quickly understood why she did that. Claiming to be his girlfriend would definitely put her in a favorable position in Lord Izta's eyes.

Not willing to make it more awkward than it already was, Emery decided not to respond to Lord Izta's teasing and just stayed silent.

After another round of teasing, Lord Izta proceeded to carry out his reason for coming here. He displayed a projection of the battleship's current location. Emery watched as he had a discussion with the captain about their destination - to the point of forcing the ship to alter course, all so he could stay with Emery longer apparently.

"Done!" Lord Izta smiled broadly, as he turned around under the captain's helpless gaze. "We will take you to one of the main outposts, which is a day away from our current position. There you can access the main portal gate."

With his status of privileged class' acolyte, Emery could use the portal to immediately return to the academy.

"This means I get to keep you for 24 hours," Lord Izta said with a smile.

This was certainly good news for Emery. Not only did he get to hang out with Lord Izta, they could also return to the academy faster than they previously thought.

"Are you feeling hungry, Emery? If so, let's go and eat something. Of course, your girlfriend is more than welcome to join us." Lord Izta beamed a wide smile.

Inwardly, Annara was happy seeing her little scheme seemed to be working. On the other hand, Emery nodded his head at the man's offer, as it had been several days since he had a proper meal.

They, under the lead of Lord Izta, quickly made their way to what seemed to be a lounge. Emery's guess was proven correct when Lord Izta explained this place was usually where he and the other commanders ate.

The three of them were having a pleasant meal with many exquisite dishes being served, when Emery suddenly thought that he couldn't waste 24 hours time like this.

When they finally finished eating, Emery quickly looked at Annara, "I am sorry, Annara. But I really have important things to discuss with my senior. Can you please give us some privacy?"

When Lord Izta heard this as he wiped his mouth, he was quite surprised.

"Oho! A man who knows to separate work and pleasure, I see you have grown up, Emery."

After Annara begrudgingly left the place, the pleasant meeting between senior and junior quickly turned into a serious conversation.

Emery proceeded to tell Lord Izta about what had happened, not only in the last 4 months when he was in the Ouroboros Planet, but also from three years ago when they separated ways from each other.

The first thing Emery talked about was obviously the attack that took place on the Magus Alliance headquarters, which left the proposal regarding the caretaker of Earth hanging as the one who said to support it - Headmaster Altus Dreyden - was kidnapped.

The second significant matter was about the situation with the Nephilims on Earth; his meeting with the Abbot and King Fjolrn and the last time he managed to stop Hades' plot.

The third was the situation he and his four friends were in now, with him successfully entering the privileged class.

And finally, a recent matter about the faction invitation offered to him, which had honestly been on his mind ever since the incident with Ouroboros. Emery even showed Lord Izta the [Soul Contract] that was still with him.

"Lord Izta, did I choose correctly?"

The renowned combat magus did not right away answer. The man was silent for a while, before he suddenly stood up from his seat, "Let's see how much you have improved first."

Chapter 830 - Combat

After they left the lounge, Lord Izta led Emery through the corridors of the battleship to one of the many training grounds that existed on board. It was a rather large clearing with a protective barrier installed.

As soon as Lord Izta said he could come at him any time, Emery immediately took out his new trump card.

[Twilight Transformation]

He did not waste any more time, as he wanted to show the other party his current strongest strength.

Emery's appearance swiftly changed upon the ability activation. Familiar-looking furs and tattoos began to appear while his teeth and nails became sharp like blades. The same thing also happened to his spirit force, as the transformation greatly boosted his spirit energy as well.

The renowned combat magus was impressed, as he watched his junior bring out his all. In fact, for a moment he was actually surprised seeing the gradual yet rapid increase in Emery's strength.

"Quite impressive."

The level of power Emery was exuding at this moment was enough to produce a smile and make Lord Izta's fighting spirit soar high. He quickly grabbed his trusted weapon - a large axe, and with a smile on his face, he beckoned Emery with his hand.

"Come here. Show me the best you've got, Emery!"

Emery did not plan to use the tier 5 sword Silva gave him just yet, but facing Lord Izta he knew that any subpar weapon wouldn't cut it. Therefore he employed his innate skill.

[Blade Claw]

As soon as the blade-like bones finished growing through the gaps of his knuckles, Emery immediately shot towards the combat magus, while brandishing them with fighting intent.

Swiisshhh! Swishh!

Clank! Clank!

Lord Izta didn't seem to be moving from where he stood, but the man managed to perfectly block all the attacks Emery threw with his pair of razor-sharp claws. Realizing the frontal assault wasn't working well, Emery immediately added his mainstay skill [Blink] to the mix.

The overwhelming mobility [Blink] bestowed Emery, coupled with the extraordinary 300 battle power his transformation gave, finally succeeded in forcing Lord Izta to move his legs to be able to dodge his attacks.

However, in just a dozen or so exchanges of attacks, the advantage Emery had managed to gain was nearly lost as Lord Izta had once again took full control of the course of the fight.

Knowing full well he couldn't keep this up, Emery swiftly added his other mainstay spells [Jade Root] and [Shadow Mist] over his flurry of attacks; reinforced by his spirit power boost, the two spells were taken to another level.

The training ground was quickly filled with Emery's shadow clones and jade-like green roots working in tandem to restrict Lord Izta's actions and movements. Coupled with his incredible mobility, Emery once again managed to overwhelm the combat magus.

Clank, clank, clank!

However, even though he was clearly being pushed to the back foot, Lord Izta started laughing heartily.

"HAHAHAH! More! MORE! Show me all you've got, Emery!"

In order to satisfy Lord Izta's request, Emery took out another card. He quickly used [Immortal Gate - stage 5] to boost his prowess even further, this move seemed to take the combat magus a little bit by surprise.

But then, he suddenly opened his mouth and said something that puzzled Emery.

"Not good enough."

Before Emery could understand what the other party meant, he suddenly felt a surge of power gushing from Lord Izta's body. His muscles seemed to be retracted, which then followed right away by a cloud of smoke coming out from his body and with it a powerful explosion of strength.

BOOM!

[Immortal Gate - stage 8]

Emery looked dumbfoundedly, as he perceived Lord Izta's power shoot through the roof. Thanks to that, the man managed to grab his two arms and gave him a powerful headbutt to the face.

BAM!

Emery's [Jade Skin] quickly crumbled to pieces upon impact and he could feel his consciousness blurred for a moment. Even so, Lord Izta's two arms still held strong, not giving him a chance to escape.

"It's still not enough to knock you out? Hahaha, very good! Let's continue then."

After saying those words, Lord Izta swiftly yanked Emery's body through his arms and brought him high into the sky, before slamming him straight into the ground. Throughout the process, Emery couldn't even move his body an inch no matter what he tried.

BAAAMMM!

Smoke of dust rose into the air, as Emery's body hit the ground hard. He felt as if his entire body had been stamped by a herd of horses and many of his bones had cracked as a result. Fortunately, his [Undecaying Flesh] started to kick in and did its job.

However, before he could do anything else, Lord Izta's hand was already raised high into the air and clenched into a fist. The man was clearly ready to hit him again, even though he was basically one with the floor at this point.

Emery desperately wanted to run away, but he was still held down by Lord Izta's other hand which still hadn't let go. His will to escape only strengthened further when he could vaguely perceive within Izta's clenched fist there was a powerful will ready to crush him apart.

Alas, he was rendered helpless by the hand and pressure the other party was exerting.

But then, suddenly, the powerful will within the fist disappeared, as if it was just an illusion. Before Emery could comprehend what was happening, Lord Izta unclenched his fist and quickly helped him to his feet.

It was at this moment Emery finally realized what had happened and he breathed a sigh of relief. Lord Izta had decided the fight was over, hence he quickly undid his transformation. As soon as he returned to his normal appearance, Emery immediately sat down and rested.

Lord Izta also sat in front of Emery and smiled when he saw the contemplative look on his junior's exhausted face.

"You should learn some claw techniques, Emery. What you showed earlier was terrible, randomly swinging your claws like a beast. It was embarrassing."

Emery quickly nodded his head, as he also realized his shortcoming. The only excuse he could give was that he never really had any chance to learn claw techniques, because of how chaotic his situation had been.

Next, Lord Izta mentioned Emery's [Immortal Gate]. He strongly believed that with his current physical condition, Emery should be able to advance to the next stage.

"Actually Lord Izta, Thrax is already able to do stage 6."

"I expected that," said Lord Izta, nodding his head. "After stage 5, it's not just about your body anymore. On the contrary, you really need a tenacity, a strong will to break through beyond your body's limits."

Apparently, Lord Izta believed Emery relied too much on his bloodline, and his battle arts had slackened. In order to tackle this, Lord Izta suggested he should go through more battles without using his bloodline transformation.

Knowing [Immortal Gate - stage 8] gave a staggering 256 battle power, Emery certainly drooled and dreamed of mastering it.

After giving some more constructive advice, Lord Izta did not forget to praise Emery.

Lord Izta also added, "I also genuinely think that you really have a chance to become the Magus Academy's Big 10 as long as you keep this up."

Hearing this, Emery was flattered. Lord Izta, after all, had worked as an instructor at the Magus Academy for dozens of years. Hence, he could be considered an expert regarding this matter.

However, he let out a helpless sigh and said, "Unfortunately Emery, this is far... far from enough to challenge the Nephilim."

The combat magus looked at him seriously, "I'm sure, you should have realized by now, how big a faction they are, right?"